

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A web-enabled automation control module (ACM) system comprising:

at least one network module configured to receive a request for a file from a network;

a web server and database module located outside said network module and including a database configured to store the file; and

an ACM central processing unit (CPU) configured to send ACM data to said web server and database module to embed ACM data in the file.

2. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said web server and database module comprises a web server configured to:

receive the request from said network module;

obtain the file from said database to respond to the request; and

send the file to said network module.

3. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said network module comprises a transfer server configured to:

receive the request from the network;

send the request to said web server and database module;

wait for receiving the file from said web server and database module;

receive the file from said web server and database module; and

send the file to the network.

4. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said web server and database module is electrically connected to said network module via an ACM backplane.

5. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said web server and database module is electrically connected to said network module via the network.

6. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said web server and database module is electrically connected to said network module via an ACM backplane and via the network.

7. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said web server and database module is located within said ACM CPU that is electrically coupled to an ACM backplane via an interface.

8. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said network module comprises:

a web server configured to:

receive the request from the network;

obtain the file from said database; and

transmit the file to the network; and

a network interface electrically connected to said web server and the network.

9. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said web server and database module is located within said ACM CPU that is electrically coupled to an ACM backplane via an interface.

10. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the network is an Ethernet network.

11. A method for managing and controlling an automation control module (ACM) system comprising:

sending a request for a file from a network to at least one network module;

storing the file in a database of a web server and database module; and

sending ACM data from an ACM central processing unit (CPU) to the web server and database module to embed the ACM data in the file.

12. A method in accordance with Claim 11 further comprising:

sending the request from the network module to a web server of the web server and database module;

obtaining the file from the database to respond to the request; and

sending the file from the web server to the network module.

13. A method in accordance with Claim 12 further comprising:

sending the request from the network to a transfer server of the network module;

sending the request from the transfer server to the web server and database module;

waiting to receive the file from the web server and database module;

receiving the file from the web server and database module; and

sending the file to the network.

14. A method in accordance with Claim 12 wherein sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module comprises sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module via an ACM backplane.

15. A method in accordance with Claim 12 wherein sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module comprises sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module via the network.

16. A method in accordance with Claim 12 wherein sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module comprises sending the request from the network module to the web server and database module located within the ACM CPU.

17. A method in accordance with Claim 11 further comprising:

sending the request from the network module to a web server of the web server and database module;

obtaining the file from the database; and

transmitting the file from the web server to the network.

18. A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein storing the file in the database of the web server and database module comprises storing the file in the database of the web server and database module located within the ACM CPU.

19. An ACM system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein sending the request for the file from the network to the network module comprises sending the request for the file from an ethernet network to the network module.

20. A method for managing and controlling an automation control module (ACM) system, the system including at least one network module electrically connected to a network and a web server and database module electrically connected to the network module and located outside the network module, said method comprising:

receiving a request for a file from the network;

storing the file in a database of the web server and database module;

and

transmitting ACM data to be embedded in the file from an ACM central processing unit (CPU).

21. A method in accordance with Claim 20 further comprising:

sending the request from the network module to a web server of the web server and database module;

obtaining the file from the database to respond to the request; and

sending the file from the web server to the network module.

22. A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module comprises sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module via an ACM backplane.

23. A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module comprises sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module via the network.

24. A method in accordance with Claim 21 wherein sending the request from the network module to the web server of the web server and database module comprises sending the request from the network module to the web server and database module located within the ACM CPU.

25. A method for managing and controlling network traffic comprising utilizing at least one network module and a web server module located outside the network module, said method comprising:

receiving, by the network module, a message via a network; and

transferring the message from the network module via an automation control module (ACM) backplane to the web server module.

26. A method in accordance with Claim 25 wherein the web server module includes a web processing component and a database, and wherein transferring the message comprises transferring the message to the web processing component.

27. A method in accordance with Claim 26 further comprising:

receiving, by the web processing component, the message via the ACM backplane;

retrieving a file requested in the message from the database of the web server module;

transmitting the file from the web processing component to the network module; and

sending the file via the network from the network module to a user requesting the file.

28. A method in accordance with Claim 27 wherein retrieving the file comprises retrieving at least one of a web page file, a document file, an e-mail file, an image file, an audio file, and a video file.

29. A method in accordance with Claim 25 wherein receiving the message comprises receiving, by a first network module and a second network module, the message via the network, and transferring the message comprises transferring the message from the first and the second network modules via the ACM backplane to the web processing component.

30. A method in accordance with Claim 25 wherein receiving the message comprises receiving, by the network module, the message via an Ethernet network.